

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously amended): A plastic log produced by the method of claim 6 having an average diameter greater than 2 inches, a flexural modulus at 40 °F of at least 70,000 psi and a diameter deviation in the range of 2 to 60%.

Claim 2 (original): A log of claim 1 comprising at least 80% of thermoplastic material.

Claim 3 (original): A log of claim 2 wherein said thermoplastic material comprises at least one polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene and polypropylene.

Claim 4 (original): A log of claim 3 further comprising at least one other polymeric material having a melt temperature at least 20 °C higher than the melt temperature of said polyolefin.

Claim 5 (previously amended): A plastic log of claim 1 having deviations in diameter simulating a natural wood log comprising at least 80% polypropylene and having an average diameter greater than 2 inches, a flexural modulus at 40 °F of at least 90,000 psi and a diameter deviation defined by the algorithm $((D-d)/D) \times 100$ in the range of 2 to 60%, where D is the maximum diameter and d is the minimum diameter.

Claim 6 (original): A method of producing a plastic, cylindrical log comprising extruding through a circular die a plastic material to form a cylindrical mass with a molten surface and cooling said molten surface with an air stream from an annular nozzle proximate to said die.

Claim 7 (original): A method of claim 6 wherein said shape is further cooled by contacting with an aqueous fluid.

Claim 8 (original): A method of claim 7 wherein said shape is further cooled by natural air convection around a supported length of log.

Claim 9 (original): A method of claim 8 further comprising pulling said shape from said die.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of claim 6 wherein air is blown from said annular nozzle along the surface of the extruded shape in the direction of extrudate motion